

Message Text

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67

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

USSS-00 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /031 W

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P 132011Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 100

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8041

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS XF

SUBJECT: SHIMON PERES REMARKS TO CONGRESSMAN FREY

1. CONGRESSMAN FREY CALLED ON SHIMON PERES, MIN TRANSPORT, THIS AFTERNOON IN TEL AVIV. FREY INFORMED US THAT FOLLOWING WERE PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE BY PERES:

A. PERES MADE STRONG PITCH FOR URGENT RESUPPLY FROM US OF PLANES, TANKS AND AIR TO AIR AND AIR TO GROUND MISSILES.

B. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION PERES STATED WAR COSTING ISRAEL 8 BILLION IL (2 BILLION US) PER WEEK. HE INCLUDED IN TOTAL COST, LOSS OF PRODUCTION.

C. PERES COULD CONCEIVE OF SITUATION WHERE ISRAEL WOULD ACCEPT "SYMMETRICAL" CEASE FIRE. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, PERES EXPLAINED THIS MEANT THE EGYPTIANS WOULD BE ON EAST BANK OF CANAL AND ISRAELIS WOULD BE IN POSSESSION OF SIGNIFICANT HUNK OF SYRIAN TERRITORY.

PERES ADDED THAT THERE COULD THEN BE A "TRADE": GOI WOULD WITHDRAW FROM SYRIA AND EGYPTIANS, IN TURN, WOULD WITHDRAW FROM SINAI.

D. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, PERES EMPHASIZED ISRAELIS CANNOT ALLOW EGYPTIANS TO REMAIN EAST OF CANAL, EVEN RECOGNIZING SUCH PRESENCE IN ITSELF DID NOT POSE THREAT TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY. PROBLEM FOR ISRAEL, SAID PERES, WOULD BE IN "SYMBOLIC" IMPORTANCE OF PERMANENT EGYPTIAN PRESENCE ON EAST BANK WHICH WRESTED MILITARILY FROM ISRAEL. PERES
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SAID THIS "SYMBOL" WOULD ENCOURAGE ARABS TO CONTINUE IMPLACABLE HOSTILITY AGAINST ISRAEL IN HOIDS OF FUTURE MILITARY VICTORIES. THIS WOULD PLAGUE ISRAEL FOR DECADES. HENCE SUCH A PRESENCE COULD NOT BE TOLERATED. HIS TERM WAS THAT "MEMORIES OF SUEZ" WOULD BE MORE

IMPORTANT THAN THE PHYSICAL PRESENCE.

2. CONGRESSMAN FREY IS AWARE THAT THIS INFO BEING TRANSMITTED
TO WASHINGTON.
KEATING

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY SALES, MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TELAV08041
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750018-1490
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731066/abqcekpt.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <16-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHIMON PERES REMARKS TO CONGRESSMAN FREY
TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF, SY, EG, (PERES, SHIMON), (FREY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005